

Gordon F. Gibson, SR/WA

Right of Way

Acquisition and Management

836 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066-5114

860-871-7757

gfgibson@aol.com

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF STEVEN K. REVICZKY FOR
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

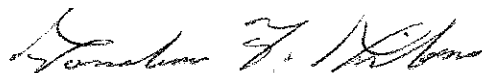
I am writing to urge the choice of Steven K. Reviczky for Commissioner of Agriculture. Connecticut's agriculture industry contributes approximately \$3 billion to Connecticut's economy every year. We need a Commissioner of Agriculture who has both the broad breadth of experience to administer the laws, regulations and programs relating to agriculture and also the ability to advocate for Connecticut's agriculture industry before both the General Assembly and the various federal agencies that oversee and administer programs affecting agriculture in Connecticut. I believe Steve K. Reviczky thoroughly meets all of these qualifications.

I have known Mr. Reviczky for approximately 20 years. We first met when we were both working for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection acquiring and maintaining real property for our State parks, forests and wildlife management areas. I retired from the Department of Environmental Protection in 1996, but I never lost my love for the land. I therefore kept in contact with Mr. Reviczky to keep abreast of the efforts to preserve our spaces that contribute so much to the quality of life in Connecticut.

In 2002 a group of individuals who recognized the need to assist the State in preserving working farmland created Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc. as a private nonprofit land trust and I was chosen as its first president. Mr. Reviczky was elected to our Board of Directors in 2006 where he now chairs the Acquisition Committee which recommends on which of the many farms available to us we should concentrate our limited resources. Under his guidance Connecticut Farmland Trust now holds easements totaling 1,967 acres on 22 farms throughout Connecticut. Mr. Reviczky also serves on our Governance Committee which I chair. The Governance Committee selects and recommends individuals to become directors of Connecticut Farmland Trust and serve on its various committees. Mr. Reviczky's presence on this committee is very important to the future success of Connecticut Farmland Trust.

Mr. Reviczky and I also serve together on the leadership team of the Connecticut Working lands Alliance, a project of American Farmland Trust which advocates for the preservation of important farmland in Connecticut and the continuing viability of our farming operations. His knowledge of the various farming operations throughout Connecticut, the operations of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Connecticut General Assembly make him a valuable asset on our leadership team. Steven Reviczky's knowledge of the Department of Agriculture, the programs it administers and the problems facing Connecticut's agriculture industry make him the logical choice for Commissioner of Agriculture.

Sincerely,



Gordon F. Gibson, SR/WA